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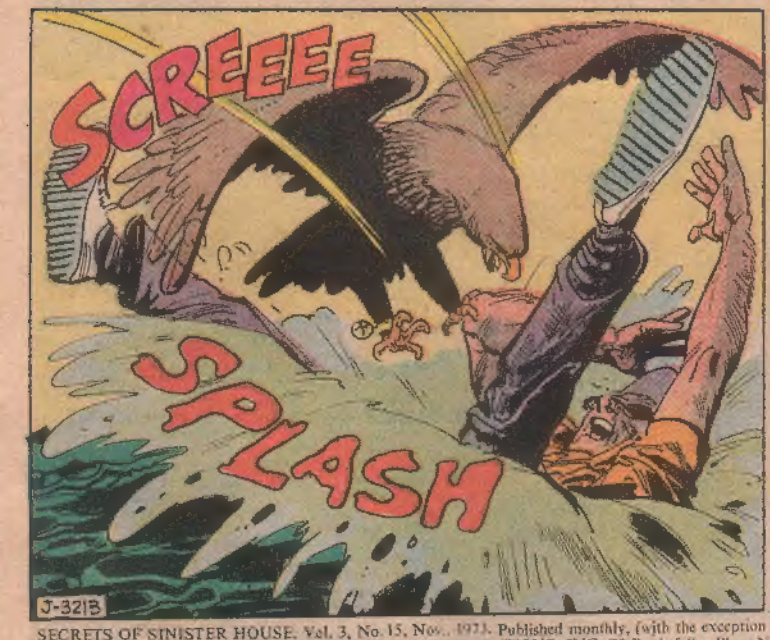
THE CLAWS OF THE HARPY
SCREEEEEEEEEE
EEEEAAAAHHHHH



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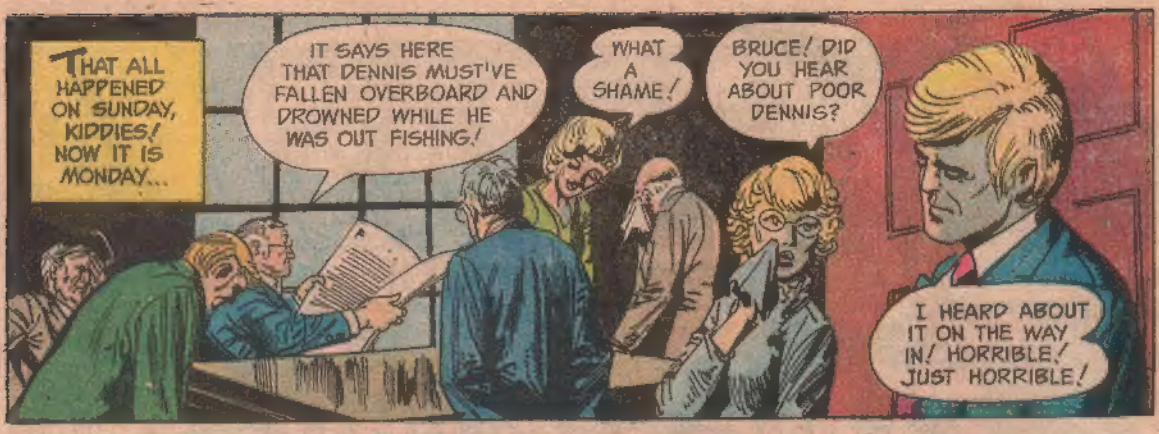
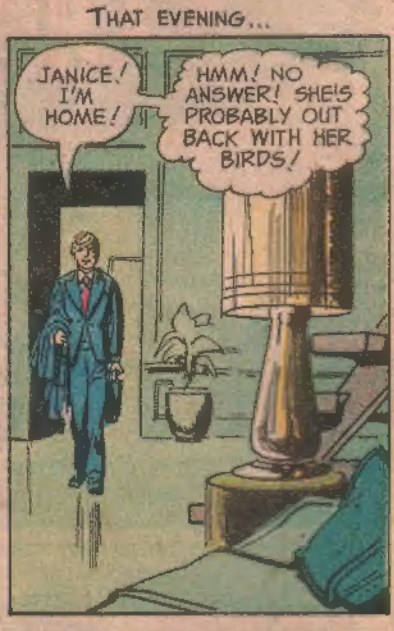
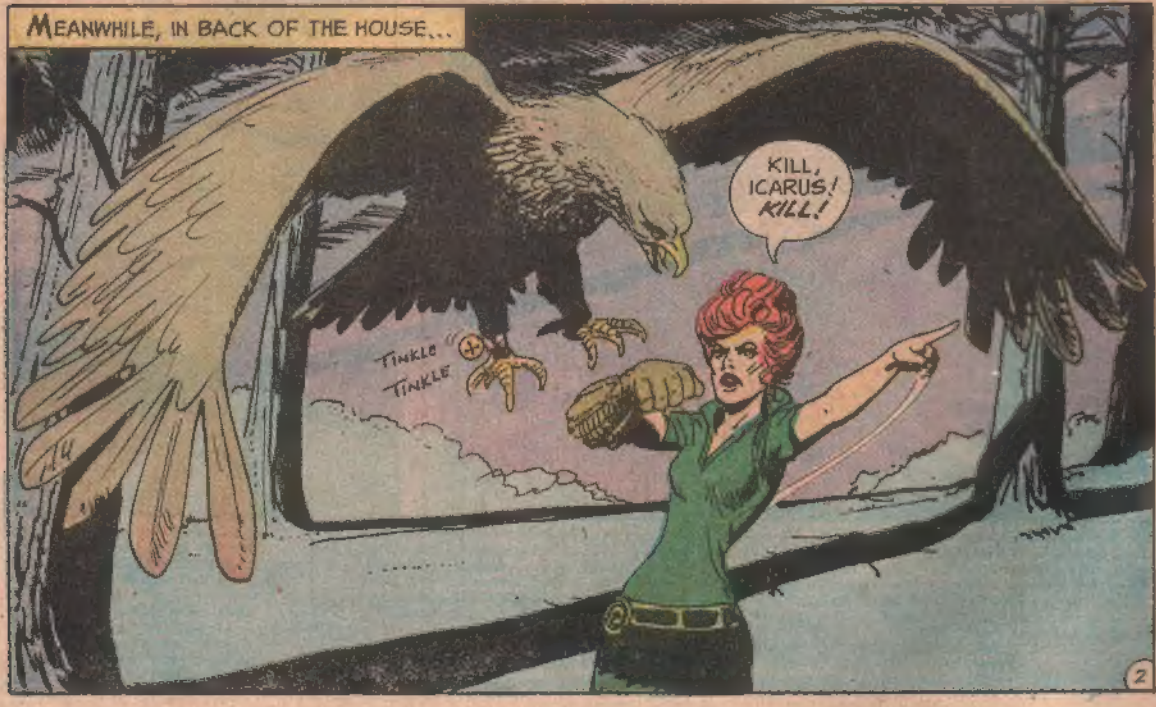

THAT ALL HAPPENED ON SUNDAY, KIDDIES! NOW IT IS MONDAY...
IT SAYS HERE THAT DENNIS MUST'VE FALLEN OVERBOARD AND DROWNED WHILE HE WAS OUT FISHING!
WHAT A SHAME!
BRUCE! DID YOU HEAR ABOUT POOR DENNIS?
I HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE WAY IN! HORRIBLE! JUST HORRIBLE!

SOMETIME LATER...
BRUCE, I'VE CALLED YOU IN HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'VE JUST BEEN PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT! CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU, SIR! I'M HONORED! I MEAN IT!

YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENCY WAS UP FOR GRABS BETWEEN YOU AND DENNIS!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO WIN IT THIS WAY, WITH DENNIS DEAD, BUT...WELL... I KNOW YOU'LL DO A BANG-UP JOB!
I'LL DO MY BEST, SIR! BELIEVE ME!


THAT EVENING...
JANICE! I'M HOME!
HMM! NO ANSWER! SHE'S PROBABLY OUT BACK WITH HER BIRDS!


MEANWHILE, IN BACK OF THE HOUSE...
KILL, ICARUS! KILL!
TINKLE TINKLE

SCREEE
UGH! THAT'S HORRIBLE! CAN'T YOU JUST KEEP THAT HARPY EAGLE AS A PET? MUST YOU USE HIM TO KILL THINGS?
HUSH, BRUCE! PLEASE! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
GOOD KILL, ICARUS! NOW RETURN, ICARUS! RETURN!
UH--JANICE... I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS TO TELL YOU!
PLEASE, BRUCE! NOT NOW! SURELY IT CAN WAIT UNTIL ICARUS HAS BEEN PUT BACK IN HIS CAGE!
BUT, JANICE! I FINALLY GOT IT! THE PROMOTION!
I MIGHT HAVE LOST IT TO DENNIS NEILSON, BUT THE POOR GUY DROWNED OVER THE WEEKEND IN SOME SORT OF FISHING ACCIDENT!
TOUGH BREAK FOR HIM, BRUCE! BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU STARTED TO GO PLACES IN THAT COMPANY OF YOURS! IF YOU ONLY HAD HALF THE SPUNK OF MY ICARUS, YOU'D BE AT THE TOP IN NO TIME!
YES, DEAR!
3

THAT WAS THE WAY THEY LIVED, BRUCE AND JANICE --JANICE CHIDING BRUCE FOR HIS LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS, BRUCE SAYING "YES, DEAR," AND PLODDING ALONG THE BEST HE COULD. AND THEN, ONE DAY...
HEY, JANICE, GUESS WHAT? THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD LIKES MY WORK! HE ACTUALLY HINTED THAT I'M IN LINE FOR THE PRESIDENCY WHEN OLD MAN BENTON RETIRES IN TEN YEARS! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

TEN YEARS? IS THAT THE KIND OF GRATITUDE THEY SHOW YOU, AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR THAT COMPANY? WHY, YOU SHOULD BE PRESIDENT NOW!

PRESIDENT NOW? IT HARDLY SEEMED POSSIBLE. AND YET...

CONTINUED ON 3— PAGE FOLLOWING

DAREDEVIL STUNTS-
WILD ACTION!
WHIPLASH
TTTP
TURBO
TOWER OF POWER
Kenner
WILD WHEELIES!
CORNERS ON TWO WHEELS, LIKE THE PROS!
PUMP THE TOWER - HEAR THE JET-LIKE WHINE!
AS AIR JET SPINS GYRO-POWER WHEEL FASTER AND FASTER...
THE POWER IS IN THE TOWER!
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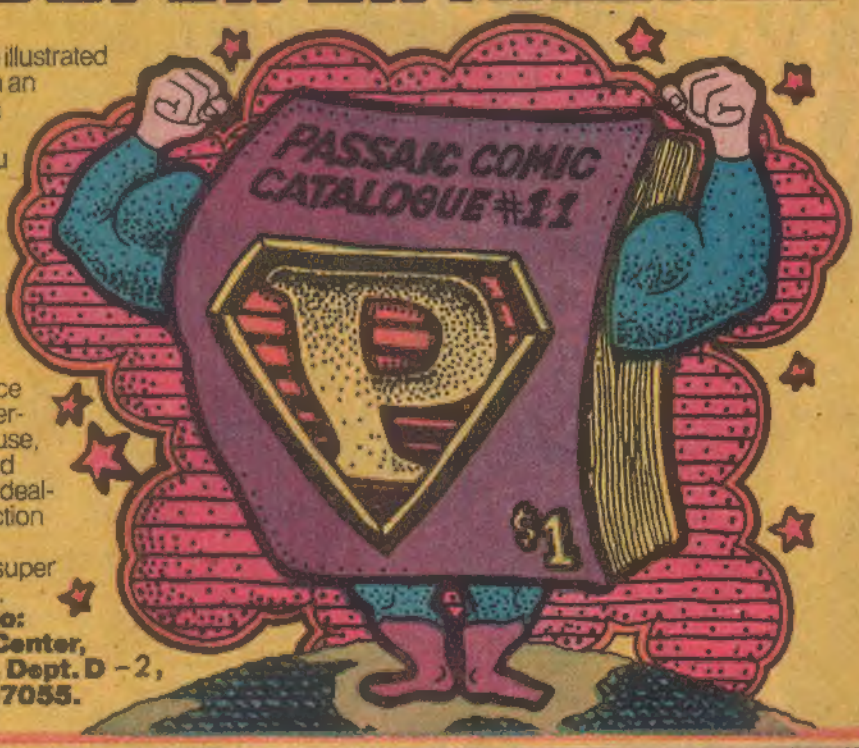

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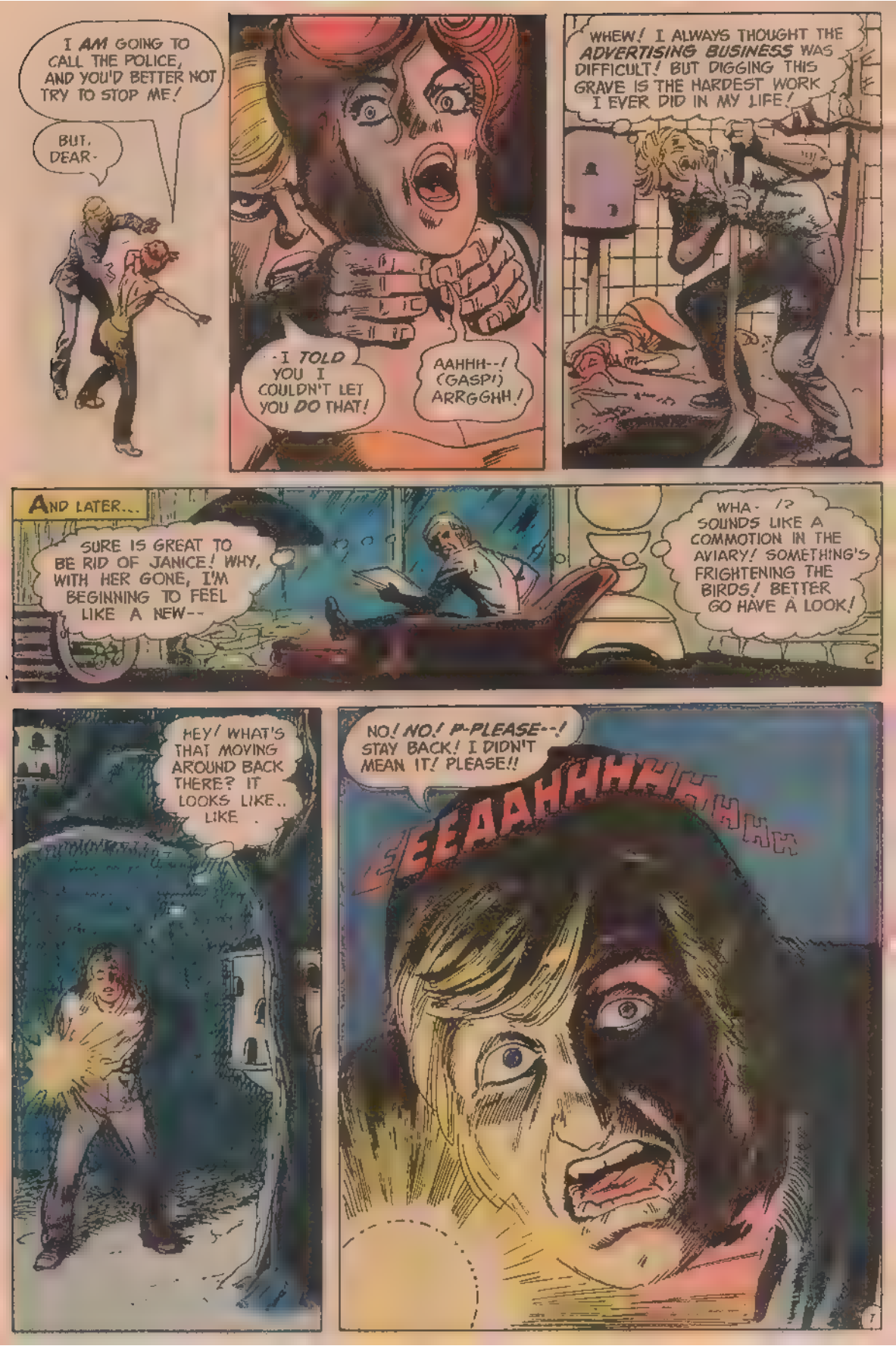
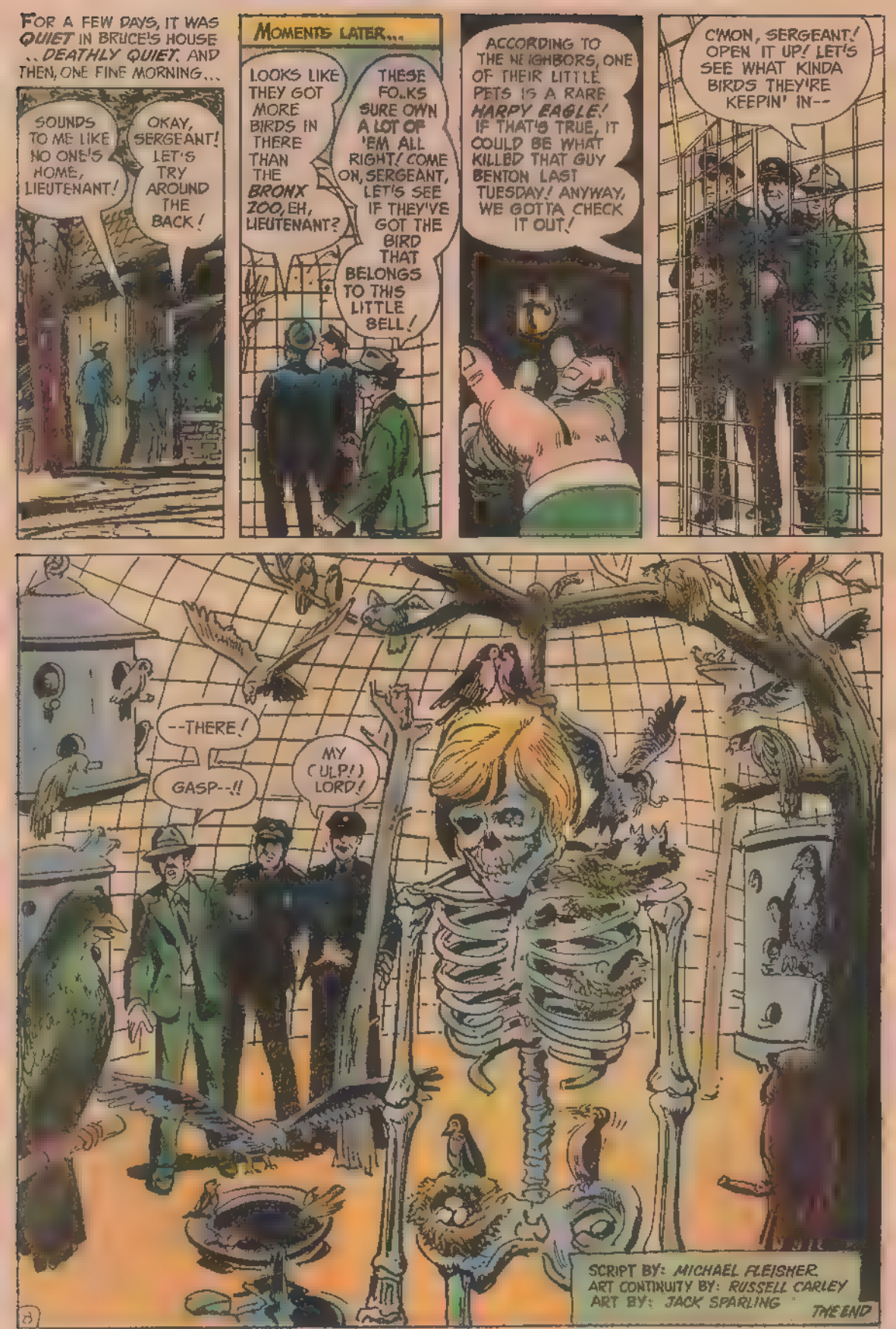
...AFTER ALL...
SCREEEEEEEEEEEE
SCREEEEEEEEE
EEEEAAAAHHHHHH
THAT EVENING...
...THE HORRIBLY MUTILATED BODY OF GEORGE BENTON, PRESIDENT OF THE BENTON AND BOWES ADVERTISING AGENCY, APPARENTLY THE VICTIM OF AN ATTACK BY SOME SAVAGE BEAST OF PREY!
THE ONLY CLUE IS A SMALL BRASS BELL FOUND CLUTCHED IN THE VICTIM'S--
SMALL BRASS BELL? COULD IT POSS--
NO! OF COURSE NOT! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
CLICK!
BUT...
THE TINY BRASS BELL ON ICARUS'S LEG--! IT'S GONE!
5

BUT HOW ON EARTH COULD--
WHA--!?
HELLO, DEAR! WORKING LATE IN THE AVIARY AGAIN?
OH, BRUCE! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED! SOMETHING... HORRIBLE!
OH? REALLY?
LOOK! ICARUS'S FOOTBELL IS MISSING! AND A SMALL BRASS BELL WAS FOUND ON A GOLF COURSE THIS AFTERNOON-- ON GEORGE BENTON'S DEAD BODY!
SO--?
OH, BRUCE, DON'T YOU SEE? SOMEHOW, ICARUS MUST'VE BROKEN OUT OF HIS CAGE THIS AFTERNOON AND KILLED GEORGE BENTON!
OH COME ON NOW, JANICE! GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! ANY NUMBER OF THINGS COULD'VE--
BRUCE, IF MY HARPY EAGLE KILLED GEORGE BENTON, I'VE GOT TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT! I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT, JANICE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T LET--
WAIT A MINUTE! I GET IT NOW! ICARUS DIDN'T GET LOOSE-- YOU LET HIM LOOSE! YOU DELIBERATELY USED--
NOW, JANICE! DON'T DO--
6


I AM GOING TO CALL THE POLICE, AND YOU'D BETTER NOT TRY TO STOP ME!
BUT, DEAR-
-I TOLD YOU I COULDN'T LET YOU DO THAT!
AAHHH--! (GASP!) ARRGGHH!
WHEW! I ALWAYS THOUGHT THE ADVERTISING BUSINESS WAS DIFFICULT! BUT DIGGING THIS GRAVE IS THE HARDEST WORK I EVER DID IN MY LIFE!
AND LATER...
SURE IS GREAT TO BE RID OF JANICE! WHY, WITH HER GONE, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A NEW--
WHA- !? SOUNDS LIKE A COMMOTION IN THE AVIARY! SOMETHING'S FRIGHTENING THE BIRDS! BETTER GO HAVE A LOOK!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT MOVING AROUND BACK THERE? IT LOOKS LIKE.. LIKE .
NO! NO! P-PLEASE--! STAY BACK! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! PLEASE!!
EEEAAHHHHHHHH
7


FOR A FEW DAYS, IT WAS QUIET IN BRUCE'S HOUSE ..DEATHLY QUIET. AND THEN, ONE FINE MORNING...
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE NO ONE'S HOME, LIEUTENANT!
OKAY, SERGEANT! LET'S TRY AROUND THE BACK!
MOMENTS LATER...
LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT MORE BIRDS IN THERE THAN THE BRONX ZOO, EH, LIEUTENANT?
THESE FOLKS SURE OWN A LOT OF 'EM ALL RIGHT! COME ON, SERGEANT, LET'S SEE IF THEY'VE GOT THE BIRD THAT BELONGS TO THIS LITTLE BELL!
ACCORDING TO THE NEIGHBORS, ONE OF THEIR LITTLE PETS IS A RARE HARPY EAGLE! IF THAT'S TRUE, IT COULD BE WHAT KILLED THAT GUY BENTON LAST TUESDAY! ANYWAY, WE GOTTA CHECK IT OUT!
C'MON, SERGEANT! OPEN IT UP! LET'S SEE WHAT KINDA BIRDS THEY'RE KEEPIN' IN--
--THERE!
GASP--!!
MY (ULP!) LORD!
SCRIPT BY: MICHAEL FLEISHER
ART CONTINUITY BY: RUSSELL CARLEY
ART BY: JACK SPARLING
THE END
8

It's time for a historical look at one of *DC's* most interesting features—a group of super-heroes who have been fighting for 15 years to earn a permanent home in one of our magazines . . .

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

The Legion was born in the April, 1958 issue of Adventure Comics (#247) when *Superboy* traveled through time to the future to join a club of super-beings. Editor Mort Weisinger never intended them to become regular supporting characters, but the demand for the *Legion* was so great that he had to bring them back dozens of times in the next few years, to play bit parts in practically every one of the *Superman* family magazines that he edited, from *Action* to *Jimmy Olsen*. Even in the days before most comics had letters pages, the *Legion* had a large band of supporters, which seemingly grew along with the super-hero club. (It had grown from three members to about 15). Finally, they got their chance at a series of their own . . .

The Bizarros (Anyone out there remember *Superman's* imperfect double and his family?) had worn out their welcome as the back-feature in *Adventure Comics*, so the *Legion* took over with #300 in September, 1962, with *Superboy* soloing in the lead story, as he had for over 15 years.

The Legion's supporters were not going to settle for a mere back-feature; within a year, they had boosted the sales of *Adventure* issues with the *Legion* on the cover so much that our favorite super-stars took over the book—first as a 17-page cover feature, and then with book-length tales in a magazine re-titled *Adventure Comics featuring Superboy and The Legion of Super-Heroes! The Legion* held onto that slot until 1969 when *Supergirl* took over *Adventure* and they moved to the back of *Action Comics*, as they took another step backward on their long odyssey.

When Weisinger retired in 1971, Murray Boltinoff picked up the *Legion* for his stable of characters and featured them in the back of *Superboy*, picking former fans Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum (a life-long *Legion* freak) to handle the creative chores.

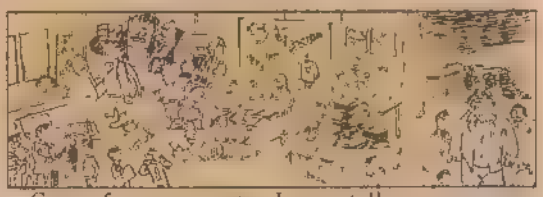
The masses of *Legion* fans still weren't happy; they insisted that DC give the *Legion* its own mag again. Everyone at the office thought that they deserved another chance, too, so a *Legion* reprint mag was published to test the sales potential. It succeeded, and if you pick up a new issue of *Superboy*, you'll find that it's now *Superboy* and *The Legion of Super-Heroes*. *The Legion* has come full circle again, and I hope they stay around another 15 years!

FLASH! The lives of the *Legionnaires* will be changed drastically by the events that are going to take place in *Superboy* #200, so no *Legion* fan can dare to miss that one! Watch *Direct Currents* for the exact on-sale date!

* * * * *

A few months ago, I wrote a *Behind The Scenes* column which talked about the Comic Art Convention, and I mentioned a few things about comic fans. Since then, I've received a number of letters asking more about the world of these people, and how to get involved in fandom. This month, then, let's take a long look at . . .

COMIC FANS!



Comic fans are people who can tell you every issue of every comic that *Superman* ever appeared in, who drew it, and what the title of the story was. They know the date that the new comics are due at their newsstands, and which ones are due out in any given week. They've been known to spend up to $500 for a copy of an old comic book, and deals for whole collections often run into thousands of dollars. They publish magazines about comics, ranging from news to unpublished stories by professional artists like Neal Adams or Berni Wrightson.

Conventions of fans take place all the time, all over the country. Regular monthly "cons" are held in New York City and Boston, and larger, annual affairs, are held in most major cities. If you want to enter the world of fandom, that's the best place to do it! A complete listing of conventions is unavailable but a good list is available for a stamped self-addressed envelope from Phil Seuling, 621 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11223.

It's a bit harder to get a hold of a list of quality fan magazines, however, I'll steer you in the direction of two of the most popular ones, and you can go from there. The first, if the truth be known, is my own magazine. (Secret identity revealing time, folks!) *The Comic Reader*, which is the *TV Guide* for the comics industry, is available from a hack named Paul Levitz at Post Office Box #23, Brooklyn, New York 11203. If you're more interested in reading comics than reading about comics, try *The Menomonee Falls Gazette*, a weekly newspaper composed entirely of comic strips, including Golden Age episodes of Superman and Tarzan, and strips by DC greats like Frank Robbins, Neal Adams, Doug Wildey, and an editor by the name of Archie Goodwin. Write for details to Post Office Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, 53051.

All this should start you on a career as a comic fan if that's what you're interested in. It's a wonderful world, and a lot of fun, and I hope you'll become a part of it.

-Paul Levitz

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IT'S BEEN THE SAME SINCE TIME BEGAN. MAN OR MONSTER, WE ALL KNOW ITS PANGS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER. AND IT CAN DRIVE EVEN FOUL CREATURES LIKE COROT TO DESPERATION IT'S CALLED...
HUNGER
BR-R.! THIS PLACE—MR. DENNING, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. AFTER WHAT I'VE TOLD YOU, AREN'T YOU EVEN A LITTLE BIT AFRAID?
AFRAID? OF THE SO-CALLED VAMPIRE THAT'S SUPPOSED TO LURK SOMEWHERE IN THE CEMETERY? NO, MR. LEWIS. MY DAUGHTER AND I AREN'T AFRAID. WHY SHOULD WE BE?
IT IS THE VOICES THAT WAKEN YOU. THE VOICES AND THE HUNGER THAT GNAWS AT YOUR VITALS LIKE A GIANT RAT. THE HUNGER IS INTOLERABLE. BUT STILL YOU LISTEN...
WHY? BUT I'VE TOLD YOU! WE BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A VAMPIRE HERE! THAT'S WHY THE CEMETERY IS RINGED BY POLICE EVERY NIGHT! AND YOU'RE JUST, WELL, AN OLD MAN AND A GIRL!
YOU LISTEN BECAUSE VOICES MEAN HUMANS, AND TO A VAMPIRE HUMANS MEAN FOOD. FOOD THAT IS NO LONGER EASY TO ACQUIRE IN THIS 20TH CENTURY...
AS ONE OF THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES, I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU AS CARE-TAKERS. FRANKLY, NO ONE ELSE WANTED THE JOB. BUT—
BUT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT US. THAT'S VERY KIND OF YOU, MR. LEWIS. ONLY—THERE'S REALLY NO NEED TO BE!

YOU SEE, WE'VE MADE A CAREER OF TAKING JOBS LIKE THIS. WE'RE HAPPY ABOUT YOUR POLICE, OF COURSE. BUT WE HAVE OUR OWN PROTECTION AGAINST VAMPIRES.
SO YOU SEE, THERE'S REALLY NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE CONCERNED, IS THERE?
PROTECTION? THAT WORD SHAKES YOU. YOU'D HOPED THAT THE OLD MAN AND HIS DAUGHTER WOULD PROVIDE THE SUSTENANCE YOU NEED. AND INSTEAD...
WELL, THIS IS THE CARETAKER'S COTTAGE. YOU HAVE THE KEY, SO IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL BE GOING NOW. I'M, WELL, A BIT NERVOUS. YOU UNDERSTAND.
OF COURSE. GOOD NIGHT, MR. LEWIS. AND DON'T WORRY. IF YOUR BOGEYMAN DOES SHOW UP, WE'LL TRY NOT TO BE TOO SCARED.
AN OLD MAN AND A GIRL - LAUGHING AT YOU! HOW THE RAGE FILLS YOU THEN. ONCE MEN TREMBLED AT THE VERY MENTION OF THE UNDEAD! BUT THESE ARE DIFFERENT TIMES. AND SO YOU SWALLOW YOUR RAGE...
PROTECTION - THEY SAID THEY HAD SOME SORT OF PROTECTION AGAINST ME. THEY'RE LYING! THEY MUST BE! BUT--
BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? OVER THE CENTURIES, THINGS HAVE CHANGED. YOU CAN'T BE SURE. AND THE HUNGER STILL DRIVES YOU, YOU STILL NEED FOOD...
THAT TRUSTEE-- IF I CAN REACH HIM BEFORE HE LEAVES THE CEMETERY--
YOU NEED FOOD, AND SO YOU RUN. YOU BARE YOUR FANGS IN ANTICIPATION. YOU REACH THE CEMETERY GATE FIRST. AND THEN, YOU SPY YOUR VICTIM...
CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING
2

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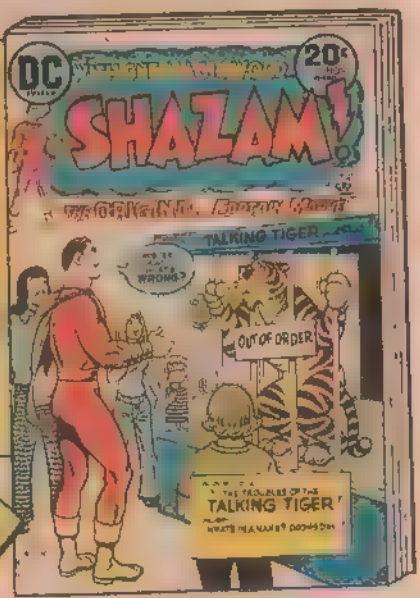
WHY IS MR. TAWNY-- THE WORLD-FAMOUS TALKING TIGER-- SPEECHLESS?



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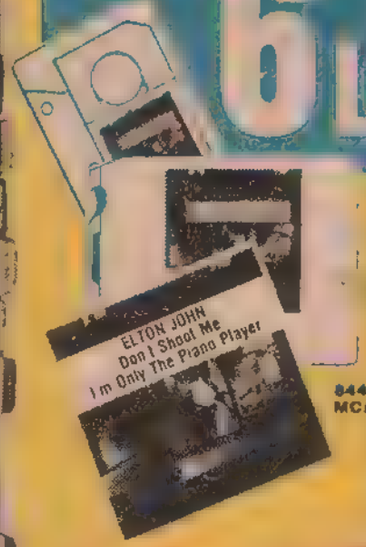

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EVENING, MR. LEWIS. ALL THROUGH WITH YOUR BUSINESS?
YES, OFFICER. I'LL BE LEAVING NOW. BUT YOU KEEP A SHARP EYE OUT AFTER I'M GONE. IF THERE IS A VAMPIRE HERE, HE SHOULD BE STIRRING ABOUT NOW.
STIRRING? YOU'RE STARVING! BUT THOSE POLICEMEN CARRY GUNS, GUNS THAT CAN'T KILL YOU, BUT THAT CAN INFLICT UNBEARABLE AGONY EVEN ON THE UNDEAD. SO, YOU WAIT...
YOU WAIT, AND YOU HUNGER, AND YOU CURSE THE MANKIND THAT NO LONGER CRINGES FROM THE SUPERNATURAL--UNTIL YOU CAN BEAR THE HUNGER NO MORE...
FOOD! I'VE GOT TO FIND FOOD! I--
PETE! LOOK THERE!
I SEE HIM! YOU! STOP! STOP OR WE FIRE!
YOU RUN AGAIN, THEN, SOBBING WITH ANGER AND FRUSTRATION! HOW YOU HATE THEM! HOW YOU HATE ALL MANKIND! BUT STILL, YOU RUN. BACK TO YOUR DARK HAVEN...

ONLY HERE CAN YOU FIND SANCTUARY! BUT HERE THERE IS NO FOOD. HERE, YOU CAN ONLY SLEEP AWAY THE DAY THAT FOLLOWS...
YOU SLEEP, AND EVEN IN SLEEP YOUR BARED FANGS ARE AN INDICATION OF THE GNAWING INSIDE YOU. THE GNAWING, THE HUNGER, WILL NOT LET YOU REST. NOT THEN, NOR THROUGH THE NIGHT THAT FOLLOWS...
BEYOND THE GATE OF THE CEMETERY IS A WORLD TEEMING WITH THE NOURISHMENT YOU NEED. BUT THAT NOURISHMENT IS BEYOND YOUR REACH. AND SO, AT THE END, YOU DECIDE. YOU WAIT AGAIN. AND THEN...
AN OLD MAN AND A GIRL! THEY'RE JUST AN OLD MAN AND A GIRL. AND I'VE GOT TO HAVE FOOD! I'VE GOT TO!
AND THEN-YOU STAND IN A DARK ROOM. THE OLD MAN AND HIS DAUGHTER WILL BE ASLEEP BY NOW. AND YOU LICK YOUR LIPS.
WHAT-- LIGHTS! WHO--?
YOU! YOU WERE HERE ALL THE TIME! WAITING FOR ME!
WAITING EAGERLY, MY FRIEND. WE KNEW THAT YOU'D COME - IN TIME. AFTER ALL, WITH ALL THOSE POLICE OUTSIDE -- WHERE ELSE COULD YOU GO?
THESE TWO-THEY'RE SO CALM, SO UNAFRAID. FOR A MOMENT, YOU RECOIL. BUT THEN, YOU CAN THINK AGAIN. AND YOU SEE NO STAKE. NO CROSS. NO MAGIC CHARMS. YOU SEE NOTHING HERE THAT CAN HARM YOU!...
ALL RIGHT, THEN! I'M HERE! YOU'VE BEEN VERY CLEVER! BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE CLEVER-- AGAIN!
4

WHATEVER YOUR PROTECTION AGAINST ME IS, YOU'RE STILL MORTAL! AND NO MORTAL CAN STAND AGAINST ME.
YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY SHOULD FEAR YOU-- AND THEY DON'T. BUT SUDDENLY, THAT NO LONGER MATTERS. THE HUNGER MADDENS YOU, FORCES YOU TO LEAP! AND...
IT CAN'T HAPPEN! NO ONE CAN MATCH YOU FOR STRENGTH! BUT THEY DO! THEY PINION YOU! AND THEY DO NOT EVEN CRINGE FROM YOUR GLITTERING FANGS!
NO! THIS ISN'T REAL! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! WHO ARE YOU? WHO--
WHO? BUT-- CAN'T YOU GUESS, FRIEND? CAN'T YOU GUESS WHY AN OLD MAN AND HIS DAUGHTER WOULD WORK AS CARETAKERS IN CEMETERIES?
GUESS? NO, YOU CAN'T GUESS. BUT THAT'S WHEN YOU LOOK INTO THE EYES OF THE OLD MAN AND THE GIRL AND YOU BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND...
UNDERSTAND? OH YES, NOW YOU UNDERSTAND ALL TOO WELL. YOU UNDERSTAND AS THE OLD MAN AND THE GIRL BEND TOWARD YOUR THROAT. YOU STRUGGLE. YOU SCREAM. BUT--
ESPECIALLY CEMETERIES THAT ARE SAID TO HIDE A VAMPIRE? WE SET A TRAP FOR YOU, FRIEND. WITH OURSELVES AS BAIT. THEN, ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS BE PATIENT. NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
NO! YOU RE- YOU'RE--NO -- NO!
YES, FRIEND! YES! I TOLD YOU! WE KNEW YOU'D COME- BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT VAMPIRES NEED FOOD!
AND WE KNOW ALL TOO WELL HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND FOOD IN THESE NEW TIMES!
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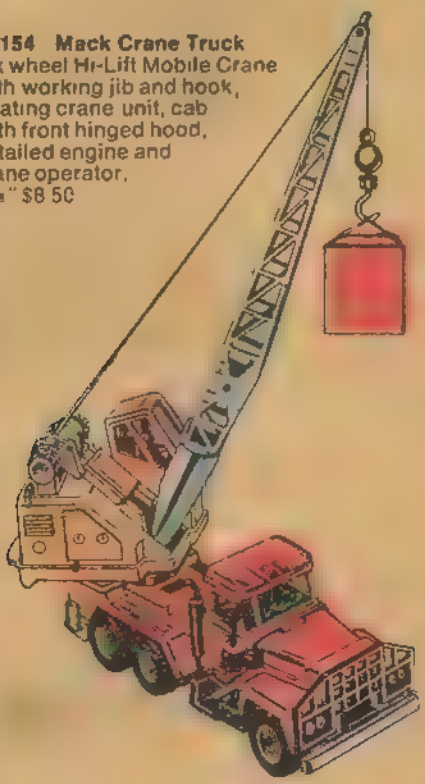

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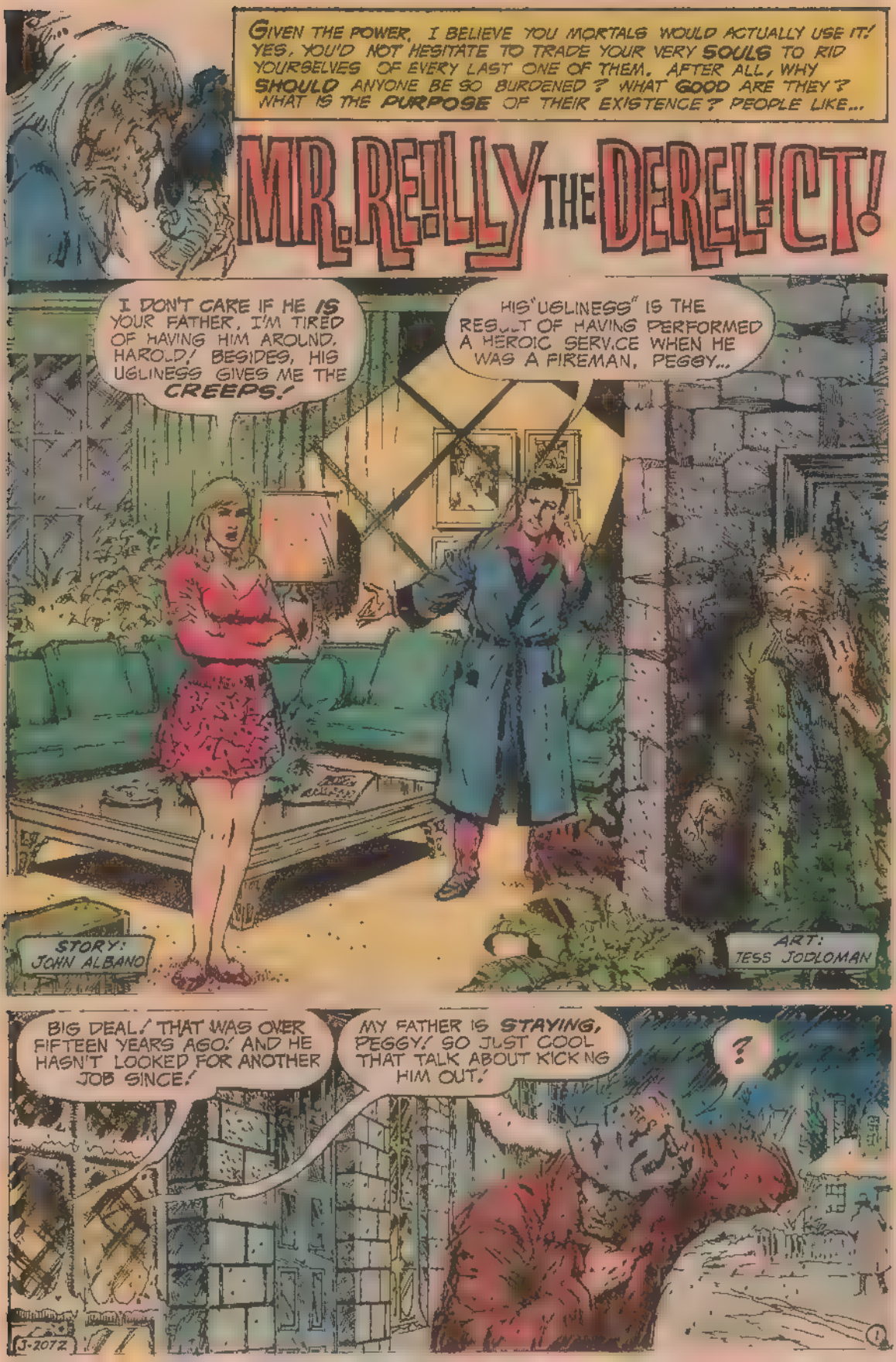
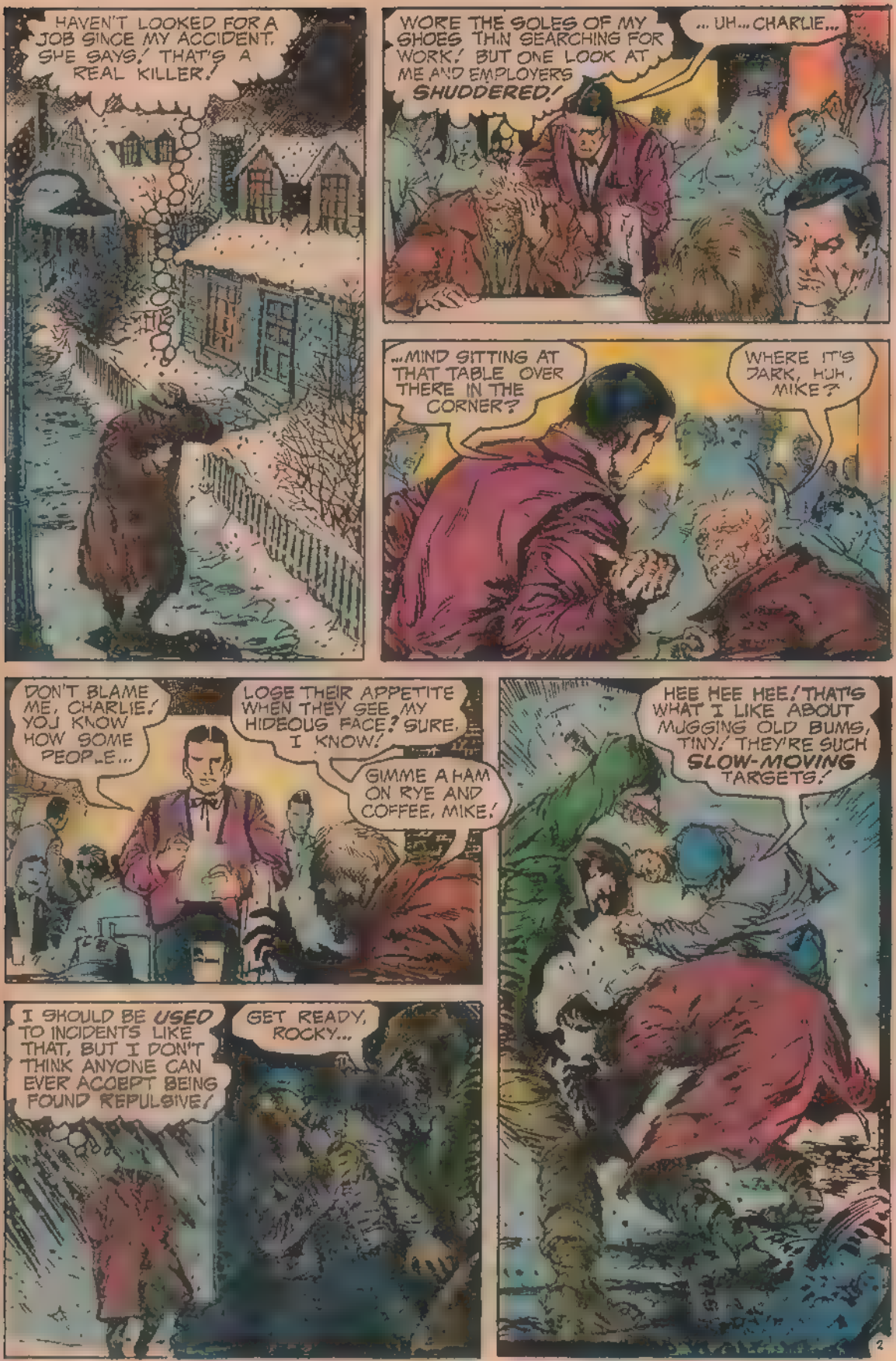
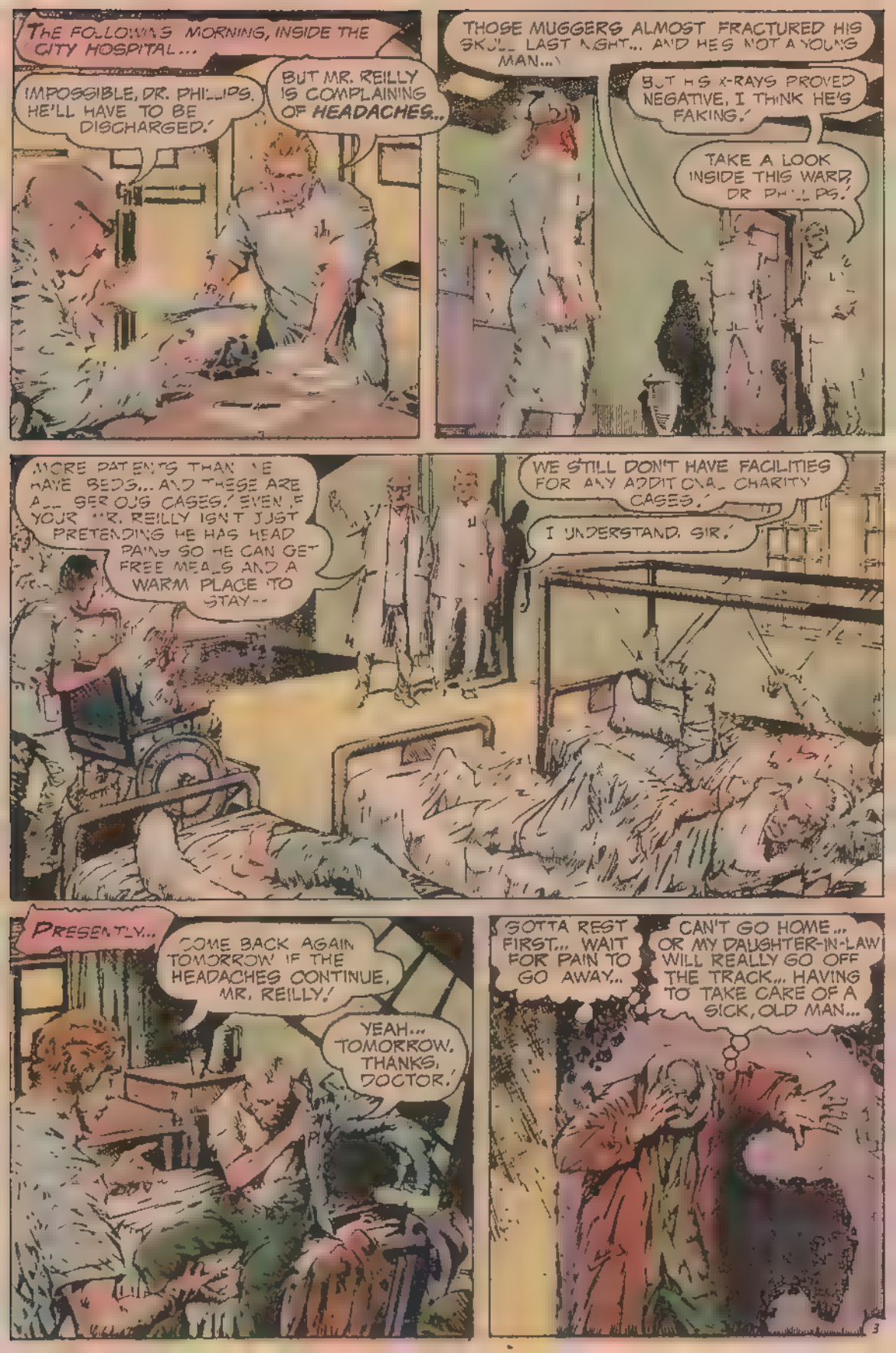
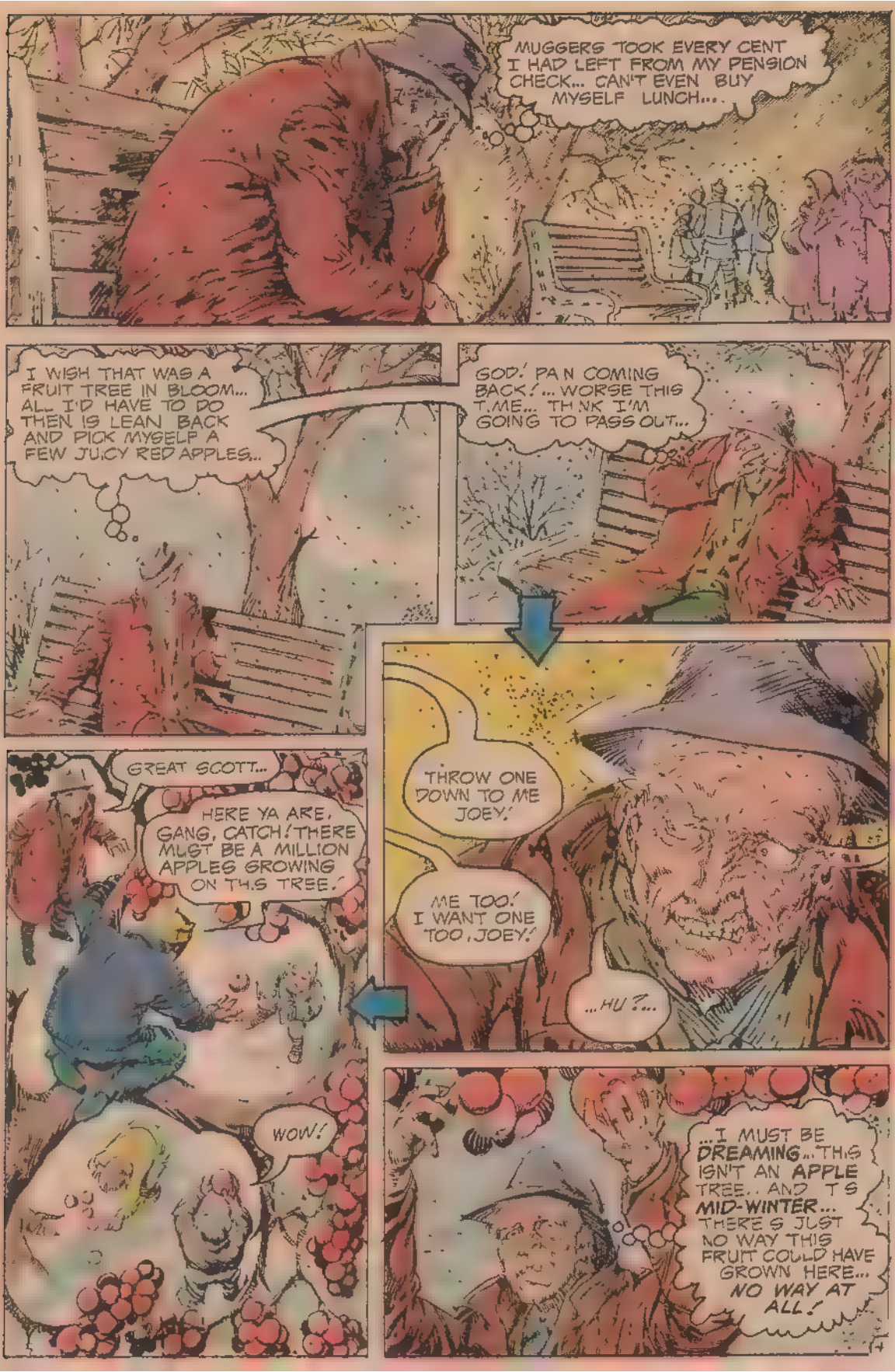

GIVEN THE POWER, I BELIEVE YOU MORTALS WOULD ACTUALLY USE IT! YES, YOU'D NOT HESITATE TO TRADE YOUR VERY SOULS TO RID YOURSELVES OF EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM. AFTER ALL, WHY SHOULD ANYONE BE SO BURDENED? WHAT GOOD ARE THEY? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THEIR EXISTENCE? PEOPLE LIKE...
MR. REILLY THE DERELICT!
I DON'T CARE IF HE IS YOUR FATHER, I'M TIRED OF HAVING HIM AROUND, HAROLD! BESIDES, HIS UGLINESS GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
HIS "UGLINESS" IS THE RESULT OF HAVING PERFORMED A HEROIC SERVICE WHEN HE WAS A FIREMAN, PEGGY...
STORY: JOHN ALBANO
ART: JESS JODLOMAN
BIG DEAL! THAT WAS OVER FIFTEEN YEARS AGO! AND HE HASN'T LOOKED FOR ANOTHER JOB SINCE!
MY FATHER IS STAYING, PEGGY! SO JUST COOL THAT TALK ABOUT KICKING HIM OUT!
?
J-207Z
1


HAVEN'T LOOKED FOR A JOB SINCE MY ACCIDENT, SHE SAYS. THAT'S A REAL KILLER!
WORE THE SOLES OF MY SHOES THIN SEARCHING FOR WORK! BUT ONE LOOK AT ME AND EMPLOYERS SHUDDERED!
... UH... CHARLIE...
...MIND SITTING AT THAT TABLE OVER THERE IN THE CORNER?
WHERE IT'S DARK, HUH, MIKE?
DON'T BLAME ME, CHARLIE! YOU KNOW HOW SOME PEOPLE...
LOSE THEIR APPETITE WHEN THEY SEE MY HIDEOUS FACE? SURE, I KNOW!
GIMME A HAM ON RYE AND COFFEE, MIKE!
HEE HEE HEE! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MUGGING OLD BUMS, TINY! THEY'RE SUCH SLOW-MOVING TARGETS!
I SHOULD BE USED TO INCIDENTS LIKE THAT, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN EVER ACCEPT BEING FOUND REPULSIVE!
GET READY, ROCKY...


THE FOLLOWING MORNING, INSIDE THE CITY HOSPITAL...
IMPOSSIBLE, DR. PHILLIPS. HE'LL HAVE TO BE DISCHARGED.'
BUT MR. REILLY IS COMPLAINING OF HEADACHES...
THOSE MUGGERS ALMOST FRACTURED HIS SKULL LAST NIGHT... AND HE'S NOT A YOUNG MAN...'
BUT HIS X-RAYS PROVED NEGATIVE, I THINK HE'S FAKING.'
TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THIS WARD, DR PHILLIPS.'
MORE PATIENTS THAN WE HAVE BEDS... AND THESE ARE SERIOUS CASES.' EVEN IF YOUR MR. REILLY ISN'T JUST PRETENDING HE HAS HEAD PAINS SO HE CAN GET FREE MEALS AND A WARM PLACE TO STAY--
WE STILL DON'T HAVE FACILITIES FOR ANY ADDITIONAL CHARITY CASES.'
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.'
PRESENTLY...
COME BACK AGAIN TOMORROW IF THE HEADACHES CONTINUE, MR. REILLY.'
YEAH... TOMORROW. THANKS, DOCTOR.'
GOTTA REST FIRST... WAIT FOR PAIN TO GO AWAY...
CAN'T GO HOME... OR MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WILL REALLY GO OFF THE TRACK... HAVING TO TAKE CARE OF A SICK, OLD MAN...


MUGGERS TOOK EVERY CENT I HAD LEFT FROM MY PENSION CHECK... CAN'T EVEN BUY MYSELF LUNCH....
I WISH THAT WAS A FRUIT TREE IN BLOOM... ALL I'D HAVE TO DO THEN IS LEAN BACK AND PICK MYSELF A FEW JUICY RED APPLES...
GOD! PAIN COMING BACK!... WORSE THIS TIME... THINK I'M GOING TO PASS OUT...
THROW ONE DOWN TO ME JOEY!
ME TOO! I WANT ONE TOO, JOEY!
...HU?...
GREAT SCOTT...
HERE YA ARE, GANG, CATCH! THERE MUST BE A MILLION APPLES GROWING ON THIS TREE.
WOW!
...I MUST BE DREAMING.. THIS ISN'T AN APPLE TREE.. AND IT'S MID-WINTER... THERE'S JUST NO WAY THIS FRUIT COULD HAVE GROWN HERE... NO WAY AT ALL!

YET THEY'RE REAL APPLES... AND THEY ARE GROWING ON... HOLY SMOKE!
I .. WISHED FOR IT! JUST BEFORE I PASSED OUT FROM THOSE HEAD PAINS, I WISHED THAT TREE HAD APPLES GROWING ON IT. .
?
MAYBE I'M GOING... INSANE!
BUT THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT--I'VE GOT TO MAKE ANOTHER WISH AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS...
...THAT SQUIRREL ..I WISH IT WOULD TURN... UH... BRIGHT RED...
NOTHING!
NOW I'M REALLY CONFUSED...
HAVE TO TRY AND REMEMBER... COULD THAT BLOW ON MY HEAD HAVE POSSIBLY GIVEN ME SOME KIND OF STRANGE POWERS..
...I WAS SUFFERING UNBEARABLE PAIN WHEN I MADE THAT WISH...
MAYBE THAT'S IT... THE PAIN... IT'S CONNECTED WITH THE POWER...WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT THE PAIN WOULD HAVE TO RETURN BEFORE I COULD MAKE ANOTHER WISH...
5

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[illegible] and stripped Ca[illegible] read from the back but looks like ordinary deck with instructions for 10 terrific tricks

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With COMBINATION LOCK ONLY YOU CAN OPEN

[illegible] ables [illegible] with [illegible] for [illegible] and with [illegible] ed leather binding

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[illegible]

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Item [illegible]

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- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible] Heads
- [illegible]
- [illegible] and LOTS MORE

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ONION GUM

[illegible]

No 281 20c

WORLDS UGLIEST HANDS

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

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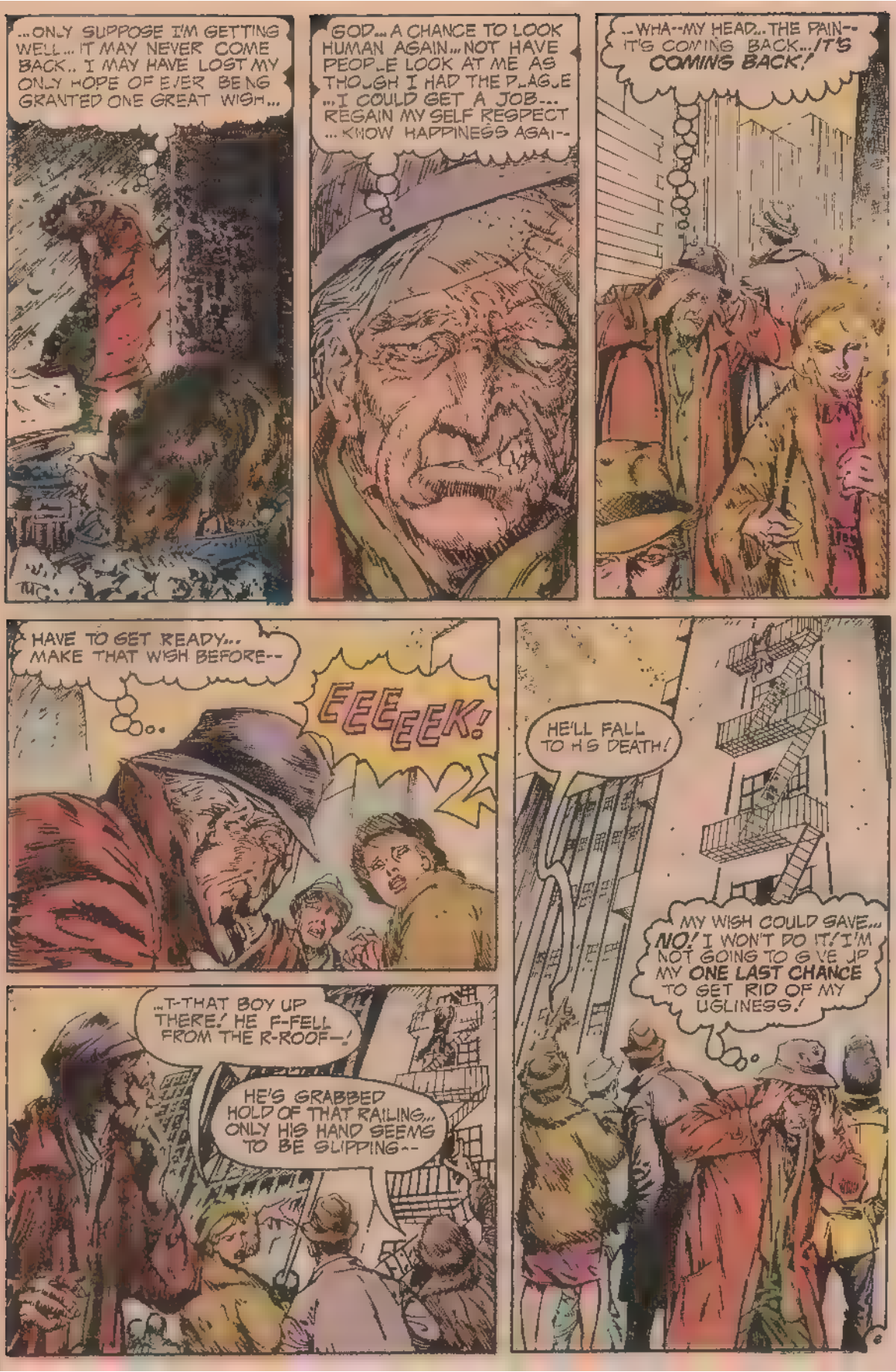
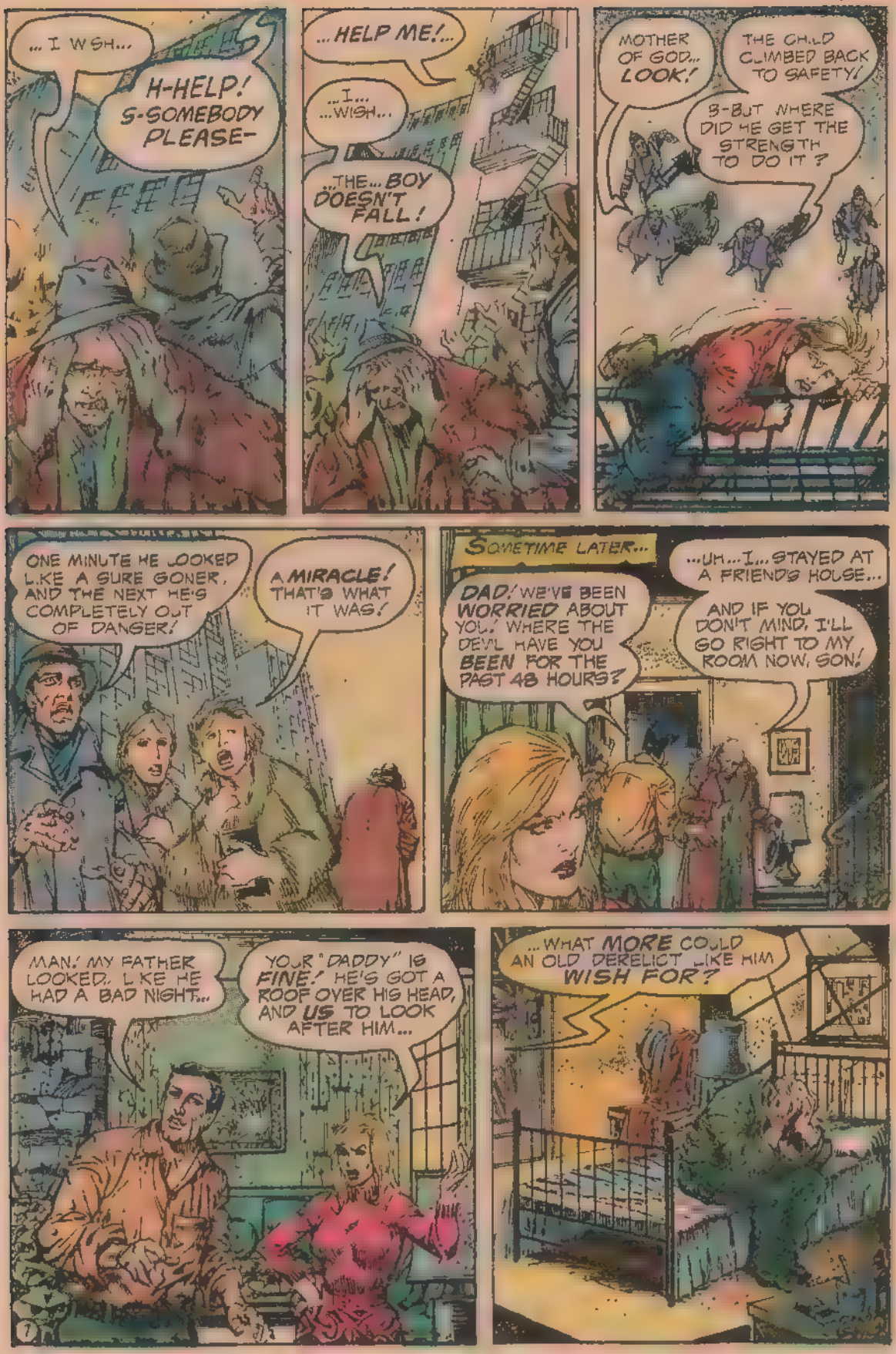

...ONLY SUPPOSE I'M GETTING WELL... IT MAY NEVER COME BACK.. I MAY HAVE LOST MY ONLY HOPE OF EVER BEING GRANTED ONE GREAT WISH...
GOD... A CHANCE TO LOOK HUMAN AGAIN... NOT HAVE PEOPLE LOOK AT ME AS THOUGH I HAD THE PLAGUE ...I COULD GET A JOB... REGAIN MY SELF RESPECT ...KNOW HAPPINESS AGAI--
...WHA--MY HEAD... THE PAIN-- IT'S COMING BACK... IT'S COMING BACK!
HAVE TO GET READY... MAKE THAT WISH BEFORE--
EEEEEEK!
HE'LL FALL TO HIS DEATH!
MY WISH COULD SAVE... NO! I WON'T DO IT! I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP MY ONE LAST CHANCE TO GET RID OF MY UGLINESS!
...T-THAT BOY UP THERE! HE F-FELL FROM THE R-ROOF--!
HE'S GRABBED HOLD OF THAT RAILING... ONLY HIS HAND SEEMS TO BE SLIPPING--


...I WISH...
H-HELP! S-SOMEBODY PLEASE-
...HELP ME!...
...I... ...WISH...
...THE...BOY DOESN'T FALL!
MOTHER OF GOD... LOOK!
THE CHILD CLIMBED BACK TO SAFETY!
B-BUT WHERE DID HE GET THE STRENGTH TO DO IT?
ONE MINUTE HE LOOKED LIKE A SURE GONER, AND THE NEXT HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF DANGER!
A MIRACLE! THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
SOMETIME LATER...
DAD! WE'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT YOU! WHERE THE DEVIL HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE PAST 48 HOURS?
...UH...I...STAYED AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE...
AND IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL GO RIGHT TO MY ROOM NOW, SON!
MAN! MY FATHER LOOKED, LIKE HE HAD A BAD NIGHT...
YOUR "DADDY" IS FINE! HE'S GOT A ROOF OVER HIS HEAD, AND US TO LOOK AFTER HIM...
...WHAT MORE COULD AN OLD DERELICT LIKE HIM WISH FOR?

You again? Go away, I'm cooking up a delicious summer barbecue for dinner, and if you're not careful, I will invite you for dinner! Oh, you want to know about your nasty little letters, do you? Well, I'm using them for fuel for the fire. I read a few, but the rest were so boring that I decided a burning would be appropriate. I guess you can read what's left . . .

* * * * *

Dear Eve:

Just had to let you know what a special treat Sinister House #11 proved to be—everything from the Sparling cover (and my copy came with a double-cover!) to the Aragones cartoon about TV dinners. The writhing tresses of Ruben Yandoc's lady monster (that was no lady, that was Stefan's wife) lifted the hair and hackles on my neck; and that tale about the witch girl "Enemy" was suitably touching even though the punch, er, panel, was telegraphed early.

But what I'm really writing about is "Bedlam." Alex Nino strikes again! I certainly do hope you keep him around. "Cinematic" is an overused word in conjunction with comic art, but this Kanigher/Nino team sure knows how to pull out all the stops and go for all the visual effects! Yandoc, Alcala, the Redondos, et al, are all impressive, but Alex Nino is a true graphic genius.

Ed Leimbacher, Seattle, Washington

Dear Ed,

I guess that out in Seattle one can get very impressionable so I'll forgive your long-winded praise of this Nino kid as a genius. The only genius in the Sinister House is me, Eve! No one else! However, since you like him so much I'll give him an extra gorilla biscuit at supper tonight and start him on a new story.

* * * * *

Dear Eve,

Let's face it, your comic will never be as good as Cain's House of Mystery mag unless you start digging! You can't expect us to buy this kind of garbage. I think that we deserve some good stories. Don't get me wrong now, I don't want to be turned into a frog or anything, but can't you do any better?

Helen S. Wells, Charleston, S. C.

Dear Helen,

Yes! Helen S. Wells . . . POOF!! *You are now a toad! Not as good as that ugly, half-witted, young upstart Cain, huh? How does it feel down there, dearie! Hee . . . hee . . . hee.*

Dear Eve,

This is the first time I have read your magazine and I think it's just great. I've been reading some of the letters that people write to you and all they say is how to improve the magazine. Don't listen to them! I really like it just the way it is.

Isabel Ajuria, Address Unknown

Dear Isabel,

Thank you, and you can be sure that I'll never turn you into a frog. Your taste is magnificent.

* * * * *

Dear Eve,

In issue #11, you were talking about a date with the Swamp Thing. How did it turn out? I don't normally ask people about their private lives, but since you're not really a person . . .

I think you and the Swamp Thing would make a terrific pair. The ordinary, average, everyday couple—a shriveled-up female (?) prune and a root-infested mountain of moss.

Also in #11, I really liked "The Enemy." It really got to me. "The Monster Of Death Island" was OK. I liked the seventh panel on the last page a lot, but the story was a real oldie. I'm sure that you can do better than that.

Finally, what's the name of that cute little bird that's always perched on your shoulder?

Elaine B., British Columbia, Canada

Dear Elaine,

I should turn you into a mud-lark for butting in on my relationship with the Swamp Thing, but since you asked about my beloved Edgar Allen, I won't. He's not a bird though, he's a genuine enchanted raven, who used to be a human being before he met me. It's a long, sweet story, but it's also none of your business—just like my dates with any one of my plant-friends. So quit while you're ahead (or, for that matter, while you've got a head!).

* * * * *

All right, reader, this is it! I've had it with you. This is something like the tenth time that I've opened up my mailbox without finding one of your rotten letters in it! If you don't write a note about this issue, I'm going to give up my lease and move, and I hope you get stuck with a tale-teller as dumb as Abel! If you don't want that to happen, send your letters to: WITCH'S TALES, c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

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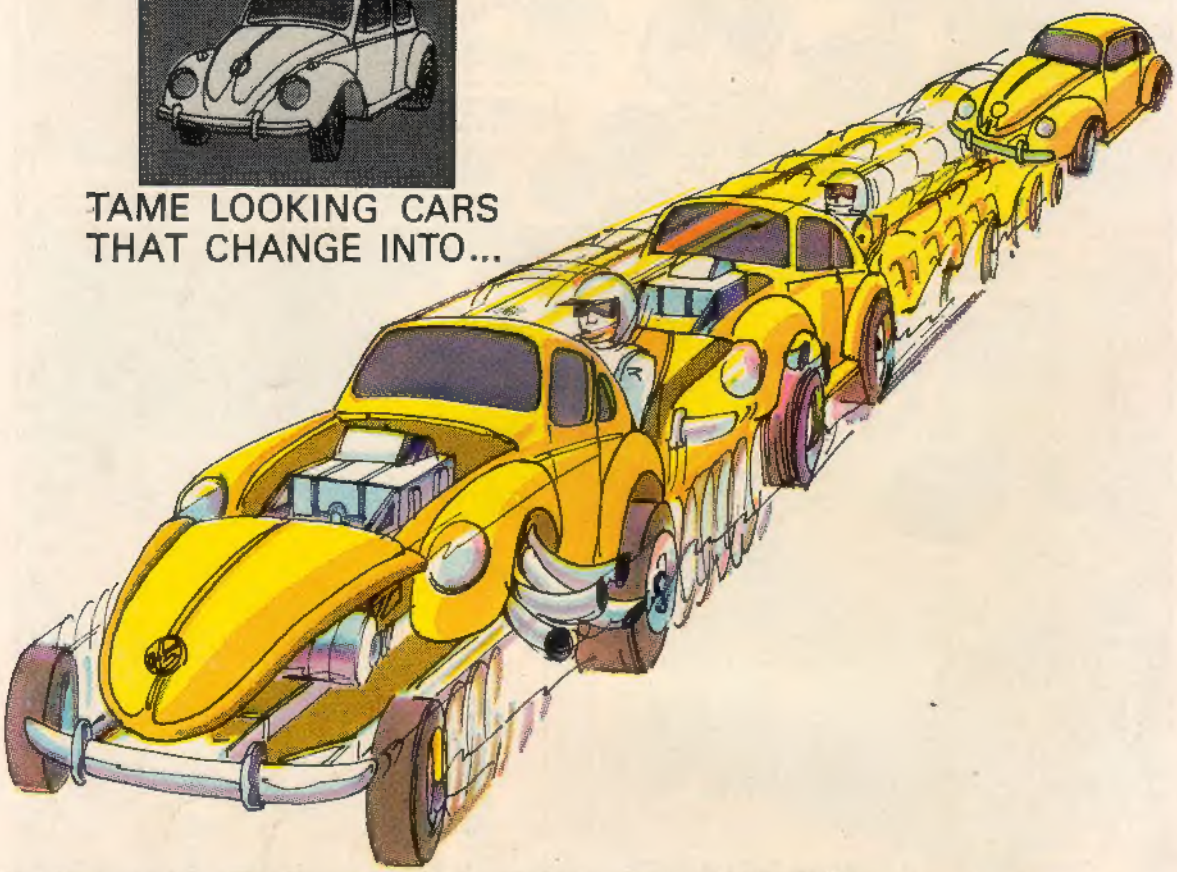

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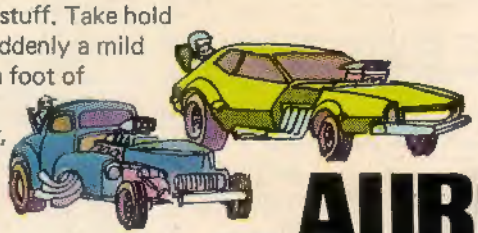

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